



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IOWA MAN INDICTED FOR ROBBING BLYTHEDALE, MO., BANK

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Iowa man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for robbing a bank in Blythedale, Mo.

Javier Juaquin Garcia, 19, of Mount Ayr, Iowa, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

The federal indictment alleges that **Garcia** robbed the Citizens Bank of Blythedale on July 23, 2004. During the robbery, the indictment alleges, **Garcia** took by force approximately \$2,679.

Garcia was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on July 26, 2004, in Kansas City. Today's indictment replaces that criminal complaint.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, law enforcement officers responded to a bank alarm at approximately 9:10 a.m. on July 23, 2004.

Garcia was described as wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt, with the hood pulled over his head, driving a white and red truck. He also was described as wearing a pantyhose mask over his face, according to the affidavit.

Once inside the bank, **Garcia** approached a bank employee and demanded that the employee give him cash. At the time of the robbery, **Garcia** was armed with a .22 caliber rifle, the affidavit states. The bank employee emptied a teller drawer, giving **Garcia** the money and the bait bills that it contained. At that time, **Garcia** left the bank.

Law enforcement officers later stopped a vehicle in Leon, Iowa, matching the description of the one driven by the bank robber. **Garcia** was driving the vehicle and was arrested shortly after the traffic stop.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Decatur County, Iowa, Sheriff's Department.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow